points of difference will, Dr. W. states, usually suffice to distinguish between the two affections.

With reference to another important point—how we may discriminate between paralysis from structural changes in the brain, and those less grave forms of which this paper treats—Dr. W. observes, that the paralysis which occurs in cases of tubercle of the brain does not usually supervene suddenly, nor does it for the most part at *first* involve both the upper and lower extremity, but the upper is generally the first affected. In cases of tubercle of the brain, headache, and other vague indications of cerebral disease, have usually existed for a longer or shorter time, when the power over one limb is observed to be impaired. The patient at first uses that limb less willingly than the opposite one, but still moves it, though in a tremulous manner, nor is it till after some time that any thing approaching to complete paralysis comes on; and when it does it is usually associated with an involuntary tremor or twitching of the limb.

The cases with reference to which most doubt will exist are those in which the paralysis has succeeded to an attack of convulsions. Even here, however, there are circumstances which will often help us to discriminate between the graver and less formidable malady. In tubercle of the brain it is but very seldom that any thing approaching to complete paralysis follows the first attack of convulsions, but usually, firm contraction of the fingers of one hand, or of some joint of one or other extremity, succeeds to the convulsion, and continues, for some hours, or even longer, and it is only gradually, and after the recurrence of several fits, that the paralysis of the limb becomes very obvious. Cerebral tubercle, too, is almost always attended with headache, and a peculiar stupor, which usually precede, and almost invariably follow, any convulsive seizure.

The prognosis Dr. W. considers may be usually favourable, though the convalescence will probably be tedious, and in some cases the paralysis will be permanent.

Purgatives enter largely into Dr. W.'s plan of treatment. The habitual constipation often met with in weakly children, who are sometimes the subjects of this disease, is however not best overcome, Dr. W. justly remarks, by the employment of drastic purgatives, but rather by the persevering use of gentle aperients. Tonics are sometimes beneficial; Dr. W. considers stimulating liniments as often of great service; and he suggests a trial of electricity.

These papers are valuable contributions to our knowledge of infantile diseases.

Art. XXV.—*An Elementary Treatise on Human Physiology, on the Basis of the Précis Elémentaire de Physiologie.* Par F. Magendie, &c. 5th edition, 1838. Translated, enlarged, and illustrated with diagrams and cuts, especially designed for the use of Students of Medicine. By John Revere, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of the city of New York. 8vo. pp. 539: New York, 1844.

There was a time,—and that not a very remote one,—when the Elements of Physiology of M. Magendie might, perhaps, have been considered a very useful introduction to the study of that science; but the rapid and highly important advances which every portion of physiology has experienced, within a few years past, and which are only very partially indicated in the successive editions of M. Magendie's work; as well as the number of able and comprehensive elementary treatises, to say nothing of the extensive and laboured expositions of the science, with which we are now supplied—one or more of the first from the pens of distinguished and competent writers of our own country—have entirely superseded the Précis Elémentaire of M. Magendie; which, in even its latest edition, is far inferior to most of the recent treatises, in almost every particular essential to even an elementary work.

As an exponent of the particular views of the author, on certain points of physiology, and for the history of the various experiments that have been performed by him, and of their results, the work of M. Magendie will, of course, be consulted by every cultivator of the science, but to the student of physiology, as a means of introducing him to a knowledge of its present condition, it cannot but prove an inefficient and unsafe guide.

We were, we must confess, not a little surprised at the high estimate that the editor, in his preface to the edition before us, has given of the work of M. Magendie; in this, he will find, we suspect, but few to agree with him. The large additions he has considered it necessary to make to many of the chapters, are, certainly, rather a strange comment upon the declaration, that in the author's last edition, "the science of physiology is brought down to the present time." And we fear, that the editor has been sadly misinformed as to the repute in which the work is held abroad, when he states, that it "now occupies the highest rank among the standard treatises on physiology, not only in France, but throughout Europe."

On many subjects connected with physiology the Précis Elémentaire presents not only a meagre and imperfect outline of the present state of our knowledge, but on some, it is in direct opposition to well-established and generally acknowledged facts.

Let any one, conversant with the actual state of physiology in regard to the brain and entire nervous system, or in regard to the functions of digestion and assimilation, refer to the portions of M. Magendie's treatise devoted to a consideration of these important subjects, and he will perceive how far it fails in presenting a full, clear, and accurate digest of the present state of the science.

Leave out, indeed, the anatomical details, and the other matter that the author has given which is not of a strictly physiological character, and unquestionably but a very meagre portion remains devoted to a consideration of the laws and phenomena of the living organism.

The additions that have made to the present edition by Dr. Revere, are, it is true, many, and all highly judicious and important—enhancing very decidedly the value of the work; but the editor has by no means supplied all the deficiencies or corrected all the mistakes and errors of the author. Judging from his editorial labours, we are satisfied, that had Dr. Revere, instead of translating, enlarging and illustrating, the Précis Elémentaire of M. Magendie, prepared himself an elementary treatise on physiology, he would have succeeded much better in presenting "in a clear and intelligible manner, the actual state of the science"—and in a form "adapted to the use of Students of Medicine in the United States." D. F. C.

Art. XXVI.—*On Spasm, Languor, Palsy, and other disorders termed Nervous, of the Muscular System.* By James Arthur Wilson, M. D., Fellow of the College of Physicians, and Physician to St. George's Hospital. London: John W. Parker, West Strand, 1843: pp. 203, 12mo.

In the above little volume, Dr. Wilson endeavours to sustain the opinion that the muscular fibre has been hitherto too much overlooked in our explanation of the pathology of certain forms of disease. He thinks that a large proportion of general spasmodic, as well as other affections, in which a lesion of the nervous system is usually supposed to be the essential element, is really dependent upon a diseased state of the muscular fibre itself, consequent upon the circulation through its tissue of certain deleterious agents contained in the blood. It seems to us that the author has utterly failed in establishing his position, and that the facts which he adduces in support of it, are equally well explained by the commonly received doctrine, that the deleterious influence is first exerted upon the nervous centres, of the diseased state of which the spasm or paralysis of the muscular fibre is a direct result. That these effects do result from irritation or compression of the nervous centres is undoubted, whilst on the other hand it has